and encouragement of new exporters and participation of small scale industry in exhibitions conducted or sponsored by ITPO;

(d) whether it is also a fact that ITPO is reducing the importance of trade promotion in favour of charging high fees from Indian entrepreneurs for its services ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) ITPO has not reduced the importance of trade promotion. ITPO encourages promotion of trade particularly exports, through various means including participation in trade fairs abroad, buyer-seller meets, India Promotions etc. So far as encouragement of new exporters and participation of small scale industrial units is concerned, 25 per cent space is reserved for new exporters and 5 per cent of space is kept for women entrepreneurs in trade fairs abroad. Further, registered small scale units participating in such fairs through ITPO are given 10 per cent additional concession on the subsidized package of services rendered to participants by ITPO.

(d) No, Sir. The fee charged by ITPO depends on the estimated cost. In order to reduce the cost of participation, subsidy is given ranging between 25 per cent and 75 per cent, depending on the event. However, in order to reduce dependence upon Government grant, ITPO has started organising participation in some selected fairs abroad, on self-financing basis. For such fairs, entire cost is borne by the participants themselves proportionately and no subsidy is provided.

Agricultural Exports from Andhra Pradesh

720. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact hat Government are embarking upon a programme to encourage and stimulate agricultural exports;

(b) if so, the details of the programme;

(c) whether any products of Andhra Pradesh from the agricultural sector have been identified for exports;

(d) if so, the names of such agricultural products with export potential from Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) what are the details of export potential of such agricultural products from Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Government is giving special attention to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. The establishment of export oriented units in this sector is being given high priority. It has been decided that such units can avail of the benefits of duty-free imports under the EOU/EPZ scheme even if they export 50 per cent of their production. They can sell the remaining 50 per cent in the domestic market as against the limit of 25 per cent permitted for non-agricultural sector. The definition of 'capital goods' under the new EXIM Policy has been widened to cover capital goods used in agriculture and allied activities so that units in this sector can avail of the Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme for importing

their equipment at a concessional rate of duty. Furthermore, import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have been lowered and they have been made freely importable. Various incentives have already been announced for the agricultural sector in the 1993-94 Budget. These changes are expected to give an impetus to agricultural exports.

(c) to (e) Tobacco, cotton, mangoes and grapes, chillies and non-basmati rice are important products from Andhra Pradesh which have export potential. The policies of the Government have all India applicability, which can be utilised by growers/exporters from Andhra Pradesh also. For the year 1993-94, a growth rate of 12.5 per cent in dollar terms is envisaged for the export of agro-based commodities.

Export of Sugar

712. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the amount of sugar exported and committed to be exported during the year 1992-93 and what are the earnings thereby;

(b) the amount of sugar proposed to be exported during the year 1993-94; and

(c) what is the extent to which these exports have affected or are likely to affect the supplies and price position of sugar in the domestic market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) During the year 1992-93, a quantity of 3.766 lakh tonnes of sugar valued at US dollar 112.26 million was exported.

(b) A quantity of 2.50 lakh tonnes of sugar is likely to be exported during the fiscal year 1993-94. At current international price, it is estimated to earn foreign exchange worth US dollar 71.5 million.

(c) The quantum of exports are so decided that they do not have any adverse impact on the domestic market.

Setting up of a National Centre for Trade Information

722. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Centre for Trade Information (NCTI);

(b) if so, what will be the status, structure and the funding pattern of the NCTI; and

(c) by when the NCTI is likely to become fully operational ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for setting up a National Centre for Trade Information has been under consideration of the Ministry. A Committee has been constituted recently to finalise the organisational structure, and to work out the objectives and funding pattern for operationalising the NCTI.